WCRA NEWS

FEBRUARY 2011

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
FEBRUARY 18TH

WCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 22
GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The January General Meeting of the WCRA will be held Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at Raibow Creek Station (Willingdon at Penzance) at 1930 hours. Nominations for 2011 Director positions will be held. Entertainment will be “A Celebration of Steam’(1985—86) DVD by Craig McDowall.

Due notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the WCRA will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 1930 hours at Rainbow Creek Station in Burnaby.

ON THE COVER

Royal Hudson #2860 makes a dramatic departure from Squamish on the morning of Tuesday, December 7, 2010 en route Vancouver and a private event with Louis Vuitton. The damp climate and cold with snow add to the drama of a scene that only a steam locomotive can create. (photo by Russ Grycan)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- West Coast Railway Heritage Park open daily 1000 through 1600k
- Wednesday, February 2—Squamish Chamber of Commerce “After Five” social event, CN Roundhouse at 1700 hours, $15 admission
- Friday, February 4 —Deadline for items to be included in the March 2011 WCRA News
- Saturday, February 12—Squamish Winter Farmer’s Market, CN Roundhouse, 1000—1500 hours, free admission to Roundhouse during the event
- Sunday, February 13—Mount Pleasant Lions Model RR Show, Mount Pleasant Elementary School, 2300 Guelph St., Vancouver (see page 5 for details)
- Tuesday, February 15—Tours Committee meets. Details thru Matt at 604-524-1011
- Friday, February 18—WCRA 50th Anniversary Fundraising Gala, 1800k—see page 5
- Tuesday, February 22—WCRA Annual General Meeting, 1930 hours, Rainbow Creek Station in Burnaby

The West Coast Railway Association is an historical group dedicated to the preservation of British Columbia railway history. Membership is open to all people with an interest in railways past and present. We are a non-profit British Columbia society, registered as a Canadian charity. Membership prices are as follows, HST is added to all fees:

Individual $50.00, Family $60.00. E Members (electronic newsletter only) are $35 individual and $45 family. (Outside Canada, please remit US $)  Other categories are:

- Junior Member (age 18 and under) $25
- Sustaining Member $100 (tax receipt) plus membership type regular fee
- Life Member (one time fee, HST included)$784 individual life / $1,344 family life

All memberships include the monthly newsletter, Heritage Park admission (except Special Events), mini rail rides and discounts on food and merchandise. The Association holds a monthly meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 1930 hours in Burnaby at Rainbow Creek Station in Confederation Park. Apply through www.wcra.org or mail to WCRA, PO Box 2790 Stn. Term., Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X2.
EDITORIAL

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

February is the month that we begin our year long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the West Coast Railway Association. As noted last month, this is a major achievement and there will be special events throughout the year.

The first major event happens on Friday evening, February 18, 2011 when the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre becomes the site for our grand 50th Anniversary Gala event. Not only will we celebrate our 50 years, but we will host an event with a fabulous dinner and great entertainment, while raising badly needed funds for the major projects that we need to complete in 2011—things such as the elevator for the roundhouse etc.

See page 5 for full details. We hope to see everyone there with family and friends for a spectacular evening, the likes of which WCRA has never been able to present before.

All aboard for 50 Years of Celebration!

Don

ASSOCIATION NEWS

FROM THE DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Chair Bill Johnston called the meeting to order at 19.32k with 17 members present (2 more arrived later). It was noted that there was not a quorum (25 members) present thus no motions could be passed.

- Minutes of meeting 26 Oct were discussed, with 2 corrections (the November meeting was the Annual Dinner thus no minutes). The minutes were tabled for expected adoption at the meeting 25 January
- Bill Johnston raised some items on behalf of Don Evans who was unable to attend. Notice of Nomination of Directors requires 30 days notice & should have been given in November. Notification of nominations was requested to be given in the next Newsletter with nominations and, if required, an election at the 25 Jan meeting.
- A member asked why there has not been any response to a previously passed motion that the Association should have a Senior’s membership rate. After considerable discussion The Chair suggested that the subject would be addressed by the Operations Committee shortly.
- Bill Johnston read a press release dealing with The Royal Hudson 2860 - that at this time she has not been withdrawn permanently from operation but she has been taken out of service for mandatory Government inspections, including stay bolts & other items. Members requested that following the inspections a full business plan be developed to justify any repair costs relative to anticipated operational income.
On the financial side Bill Johnston reported on Don’s behalf that an application for a Howe Sound Community Futures Loan of $150,000 was in process.

Bill Johnston reported on the 374 Pavilion. Due to family sickness a volunteer is required for Saturdays & some Thursdays. Anyone interested should contact Bill.

Dave Emmington & others involved gave a report on the Louis Vuitton new store opening in the Vancouver Hotel & the Royal Hudson participation in the area of the Rocky Mountaineer Station. Rail fans were upset that there was not any advance publicity however it was explained that secrecy was a prime condition of the arrangements.

Bob Hunter gave the collection report – The Alberta is nearing completion with a formal ceremony scheduled for 11 Jan. Chris Forget is making good progress with his self funded bunk car project, John Jellis is changing windows on the Troop Sleeper 718 with the work expected to be completed late January. Other projects would depend on funding & he suggested the next should be the Flanger which would require about $6,000. He requested donations & opened the fund with $100. Two others matched his donation.

Bob did not attend the November Annual Awards night so after his report Bill Johnston presented him with “The Most Significant Contribution to Rail Preservation in 2010” award. Bill outlined the hours & hours Bob spends organizing the Archives & scanning slides into a usable collection.

There was no Membership report however it was mentioned that a Corporate Membership drive was currently on hold & would be advanced when we get caught up better financially with our suppliers.

A report from Mattias Christianson was read – work on the 2011 tours program is almost complete & will be the subject of a mail-out in January & presentations to Senior’s Centers. A monthly tours electronic newsletter has been started. Our ability to book private travel has been enhanced by agreements with Expedia, Travel Bound & others, also working on an agreement with two cruise lines in addition to the three already in place. It was stressed that West Coast Rail Tours is a full Travel Agency & can book virtually all travel for any individual or group at the best rates one can find on line. (see page 26)

Closure was agreed at 20.20k & was followed by Trackside Reports by Ryan Cruickshank & Bill Marchant

A 50/50 raffle was held raising $56. The winner, Bill Watson, donated his $28 share enabling the rent of $45 to be paid & $11 to be banked.

Entertainment was a slide show by Bob Hunter of the 1975 Museum Train on Vancouver Island with slides from the Wilkie Collection & some slides by Dave Emmington of a CN Rail Fraser River wreck recovery

WCRA TRIVIA #265 - by Ryan Cruickshank

Opening this year, what railroad station is decorated with original Disney animator and train collector Ward Kimball’s artwork?

(for answers see page 27)
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Memberships dated 12/31/2010 have now expired, and if your membership expired 10/31/2010, this will be your last issue. Please check the label on your newsletter and renew today. Remember that renewals are being accepted for memberships with the E-Newsletter—check page 2 for current membership rates. Is your email address current????? It is particularly important that those of you who have registered for access to the Members Only area keep your email address current in the Server.

Each time a new issue is posted the Server sends a notice to the email address you supplied when you requested access. If you have changed your email address, or think the one we have is out of date because you do not receive notices, please send your current email address to Jeremy at membership@wcra.org and the server will be updated as required. (J.D.)

NEW MEMBERS

The WCRA welcomes new members Maurice Freitag & family of Squamish, Cheryl Hunt & family of Parksville, and Christian & April Rommel & family of Squamish. (J.D.)

WCRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA—FEBRUARY 18, 2011

Plan now to attend an event like none other in the 50 year history of the WCRA. The CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre will be transformed into a spectacular dining venue for this fabulous evening. You will be served a sumptuous gourmet four course dinner, get to bid on some great auction items, and enjoy spectacular live entertainment on stage. Dress up in black tie or business attire and spend a very special evening out, invite your friends and introduce the WCRA and its activities to a host of new guests. All this and a tax receipt too!

Doors will open at 18:00 hours, and dinner will be served at 19:00 hours, a no host bar is available throughout. Auction will follow at 20:30 and a great show will stage at 21:00, with the event over by 22:00. Don’t want to drive home?—then take advantage of our special hotel stay option (with shuttle service) and make a full evening of it.

Tickets are $150 per person (including a $75 tax receipt). This event will raise funds to help us complete our 2011 major projects—such as adding the badly needed elevator to the roundhouse. For tickets contact either the Heritage Park (604-898-9336) or the Hastings office (604-681-4403—or at the January 25 General Meeting) and make plans for a very special evening. This will be an unforgettable event, and we hope to see you there.

MOUNT PLEASANT LIONS MODEL RR SHOW—FEBRUARY 13, 2011

The annual Mount Pleasant Lions Model RR Show is on again, and the date is February 13, 2011. However, the location is different……this year the show will be at the Mount Pleasant Elementary School, 2300 Guelph Street, in Vancouver. Admission is by donation. (D.E.)
AUSTRALIAN SLEEPERS (TIES) PLAQUE?

We have received a query from Australia searching for a plaque located on a railway station somewhere in Western Canada that notes the use of Australian hardwood ties (sleepers) in railway construction. Does anyone have any knowledge of this? (M.C.)

COLLECTION

MECHANICAL REPORT

Well, December 2010 was a very busy month for your mechanical crew at the Heritage Park in Squamish.

- We started by preparing 4 coaches, the power car and engine 4069 for the 8 trips on the weekend for the Polar Express event. We had to make an electrical repair between days, as one of our HEP connectors between the cars experienced some damage. Thanks to Tomo’o and Dave Thethi for their efforts. Other than that all the units ran well.
- We then had one day (Monday Dec. 6) to get the train ready for the special Vancouver trip behind 2860. This included reshuffling the order of coaches, more cleaning inside and getting ready for Tuesday AM departure. We had security watch the train overnight as we parked it on the MP shop tracks.
- Chris Forget continued with his efforts on the CN Bunk Car…a lot of work done and lots left to do!
- The volunteers (Donna’s Troopers) continue to work on the final preparations and repairs on the Bud Butterworth Troop Sleeper. January will see it painted.
- Christmas and New Year’s holidays, as well as some final year end vacations, reduced our available staff for the last week of December, but we managed to provide mini-rail rides to guests as well as taking down the lights used in Lights in the Park. Thank you to Tomo’o for managing and testing all the lights while packing them up…a big job now complete in preparation for next year’s event. (R.G.)

ROYAL HUDSON STEAMS TO VANCOUVER AND BACK

Royal Hudson #2860 made a grand winter steam trip to Vancouver to participate in a private event for Louis Vuitton on December 8, 2010. The event celebrated the opening of their new enlarged store in the Hotel Vancouver. The trip made for a great steam show with snow on the ground at Squamish on departure (see cover) and wet cool weather throughout.

2860 was coupled to the train on Dec. 7th and left town around 9 AM. We had fuel, water, crew accommodation and meal logistics looked after for our stop in North Vancouver, then we were off to the Rocky Mountaineer station in downtown Vancouver. Photos on page 7 by Ken Storey, 2860 and train cruises along the Porteau Bluffs delighting motorists on Highway 99, 2860 at train in North Vancouver at Mosquito Creek Marina crossing.
Hats off to Assistant Chief Jim Bonneville and the North Vancouver District Fire Department for helping us with watering the 2860 on our way to Vancouver.

Wednesday, December 8 was the big day. 2860 was fired up early by Andy Faris and crew, and preparations got underway. We had a practice run in the afternoon and then were ready for the special assignment runs for The Louis Vuitton Group in the evening. In getting everything organized to the satisfaction of the McNabb / Roick event management group, our crew of Russ Grycan, Tomo’o Oshikawa and Dave Thethi once again went the extra mile winning the praises of the event managers.

The actual event went off flawlessly. The Louis Vuitton guests were transferred from the Hotel Vancouver to Northern Avenue in a fleet of Cadillac Escalade SUV’s, and as they arrived they were directed alongside the train to board. The train then steamed from Northern Avenue to the warehouse shed behind the Rocky Mountaineer station which had been transformed into the major event venue for food and dancing through the evening. The entire operation was repeated a second time for the second load of guests; all together more than 300 were transported in grand steam train style. All went well, and both Louis Vuitton and the event management company were pleased with our participation.

West Coast Rail Tours supplied the on board personnel who worked under the leadership of Train Manager Dave Emmington. Helping were Bill & Sylvia Johnston, Jim Saunders, Gordon Hall, Craig McDowall, Tom Pruden, John Lighthall, Martin Jergens, Bill Marchant and Keith Anderson. Several of these volunteers also babysat the train overnight on both December 7 and December 8 as security against vandalism. There were no problems.

On Thursday Dec. 9th Andy and crew fired up the engine at 05:30. After the Vancouver Fire Department assisted us with watering the 2860 at 8 AM, (thanks to Captain Brennan of Vancouver Fire Hall #1) our CN pilot crew arrived and we headed for North Vancouver with a reverse move up the cut to Willingdon Junction—(photo page 9 at Willingdon Junction taken by Don Evans at 1100 hours). We took fuel at North Vancouver and a new crew for the run to Squamish. We arrived Squamish around 1500 hours after a smooth run of the locomotive and train.

Needless to say 2860 and the train drew lots of attention as it traveled the route down to Vancouver and back. Thanks to Andy Faris, Mark Liggins, Gary Faris, Richard Courage and Al Broadfoot for their work with the operation of the steam locomotive. Thanks as well to Dave Thethi and Tomo’o Oshikawa for their efforts while the train was en route and in Vancouver.

We had great pilot crews from CN and all the logistics work from CN allowed for on time departures and smooth trips...thanks to CN’s John Orr and Chris Allen (Trainmaster) for all their help. Ed Steinbeck of CN also rode the return trip with us.
Thanks as well to Ross Regan for his help at the Rocky Mountaineer Station and warehouse platform.

On return to Squamish, the 2860 was placed in the shop so Andy could prepare the engine for winter layover and placing into the Roundhouse. The loco moved into the roundhouse on Wednesday, January 5 on Track 7 and will relax there for the coming months. (R.G.)

ROYAL HUDSON TO UNDERGO ASSESSMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING

Royal Hudson #2860 is now inside the new CN Roundhouse and Conference Centre and a major assessment and long range future plan for the locomotive is about to get underway. There are a number of major items that need to be addressed on the locomotive, including a regulatory mandated 5 year boiler inspection as well as some needed running gear and wheel work. The amount of work needed, the cost of this work, and the time needed to complete it dictate that the engine will now be out of service for some time. While we don’t rule out steaming it in 2011, there are no current plans to do so.

The move sparked the usual flurry of railfan rumours, suggesting (as has been done in the past) that the locomotive will never steam again. WCRA wishes to reiterate that this is not the plan. We wouldn’t have fundraised and invested over $800,000 in the past several years if the
plan was to park the engine now. However, we do need to develop a better long term plan for the engine and for future operations.

The plan to be developed will address regulatory needs and compliance, mechanical needs and maintenance long term (at least a ten year plan) and an operational plan that will be able to provide for the financial sustainability of the locomotive.

Maintaining and operating a main line steam locomotive is extremely expensive, however we strongly believe that this icon of Canadian and British Columbia steam needs to operate periodically in order for our younger people and future generations to appreciate the awesome sight and power of a steam locomotive, and to understand how that contributed to the opening up of our region and our nation. This is a goal well worth our efforts, and we are already started on developing this next phase for the engine.

**WCXX 008 ALBERTA DEDICATED JANUARY 11TH**

The former CPR Business car #8 Alberta (now WCXX 008 Alberta) was moved into the CN Roundhouse and Conference Centre on January 4th for its final preparations for a dedication ceremony to be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. The following press release went out inviting guests to the event…..

**Squamish BC: The West Coast Railway Association is pleased to announce the Official Dedication of the ex Canadian Pacific Railway Business Car #8 "Alberta" at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish on Tuesday, Jan. 11th at 11:00 AM.**

The Alberta was built in 1929 as one of a fleet of ten prestigious 'superintendent' cars and was used across the country by Canadian Pacific until the late 1960's before being retired from active service. In 1970, the car was purchased by a private individual and moved to a spur in Vancouver’s Gastown area. Many will remember the Railcar Restaurant and the car served in that way for many years. The car received some modifications for this role to create a larger open dining space, but the original fittings and mahogany were retained maintaining the wonderful 1929 ambiance. The restaurant subsequently changed hands a couple of times, and ultimately failed as a business.

In March 2002, Marathon Realty donated the railcar to the West Coast Railway Association and, with the help of Canadian Pacific, the WCRA lifted the car from its disconnected spur in Gastown onto the mainline and it rolled once again, this time to its new home at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish.

A search for a sponsor to fund a complete restoration to operating condition commenced and was successful through the generous support by Brandt Louie, Chairman and CEO of H.Y.Louie through the The Tong & Geraldine Louie Family Foundation. Funds were
donated over a period of several years to enable the WCRA to rebuild the “Alberta” to its former glory. Since the original bedrooms were removed in the 1970's, the interior features a large lounge area, a dining/meeting room area and a full functioning kitchen.

You are invited to join us for the unveiling and official dedication in the new CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 11th.

Randy Lucas continued to work feverishly towards completion of the Alberta’s final details. It really looks stunning and is a testimony to those who have spearheaded, led and completed the work. A full report on the dedication with photos will appear in our next issue.

STOVE ADDED TO COLONIST CAR

A wonderful wood burning stove has been donated to the WCRA by long time member Ken Hynek and has been installed into CPR Colonist car #2514. The stove looks great and adds to the authenticity of the exhibit. Thanks to Ken for this great addition to our collection.

SECOND SIMULATOR ADDED TO PGE 722 EXHIBIT CAR

The PGE 722 Troop Sleeper car exhibit now has a second simulator unit, thanks to Mike Lloyd and the volunteer team of John Jellis, Roy Crowston and Donna Fourchalk. This unit has been installed in the south end of the car, and simulates the operation of a PGE RDC car over the line. This exhibit just keeps getting better and better!

RECENT DONATIONS

Thanks to Bill Johnston for the donation of a 3KW working generator set.

Thanks also to Don Evans for the donation of a vintage cord operated telephone switchboard (which was used in the BC Parliament Buildings until 1984! (R.G.)

LIGHTS COMPLETED OVER TRACKS ONE AND TWO

Thanks to Continental Power, the large overhead lights above roundhouse tracks one and two have had ballasts installed and are now operational. These had remained incomplete due lack
of funding, and left the east side of the building quite dark. Thanks to this work, all main lights in the building are now operational and temporary lighting has been removed.

BOOKINGS FOR 2011 LOOKING STRONG

The CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre is seeing very strong bookings already as 2011 gets started. There are already 26 booked event days in the building for 2011, our target was to reach 45 so this looks very achievable. Some of the more notable events, the Robbie Burns Dinner on January 20th, Sea to Sky Travel Show in April, Squamish Farmer’s Market once a month for four months, several weddings, Rotary Health Care fundraiser, the Howe Sound Secondary grad prom and more. Watch the calendar each month in the newsletter for events that are available to members and the public. (D.T.)

HELP US COMPLETE THE ROUNDHOUSE

Although we have now opened the new facility, several items remain for the future as we just still do not have the funds needed to complete them. These items include the elevator to the upper levels (stairs are in now), the supplementary air circulation system, additional electrical detail lighting, and the servery finishing. We will undertake these projects as they can be funded, hopefully all to be completed in 2011.

Our biggest challenge remains the funding. While all who come by drop lavish words on what we have accomplished and how great the building looks, we have to remember that we have not finished the job nor have we fully paid for it. We still must meet our capital fundraising goals for this year and next year before the project can be declared completed.

The total gap to finish the turntable installation and complete the outstanding items on the building remains at around the $900k mark. Our capital fundraising target for 2010 was set at $1.4 million, and we have achieved only about $500,000 of that so far. We continue to work to find the naming sponsors needed to close this gap, and bring this great new facility to full completion. We must have your help here if we are to succeed.

Naming Opportunities—these will name specific exhibit areas in the building as well as the plaza out front, and suggested amounts are indicated.

- **Heritage Plaza** (centre court in front of the building, around the turntable) - suggested naming sponsorship amount $500,000. This will be a major plaza area and scene for many activities such as introduction of new rail restorations, outdoor concerts, car shows
- **Upper Level Viewing Deck and Gallery**—this is the indoor / outdoor deck on the WCRA upper level of the building, which will provide great views over the Heritage Plaza of the event site as well as the **Mac Norris Station** main track. Also a wonderful reception
location for events. Suggested naming sponsorship $250,000

- **John Hardie Mitchell Gallery—Named!** This area, off the main entry lobby, is used to exhibit special collections, such as art shows or photography. Exhibits will change regularly, sponsorship taken by the John Hardie Mitchell family foundation.

- **Tracks 1 through 7—Tracks 4 and 5 Named!** - each of the seven exhibit tracks will carry a sponsor name, each track will house one of our collection’s prize pieces of rolling stock, suggested naming sponsorship $50,000 per track (five tracks still available). The latest naming is Track 4 after Gordon & Mary Christopher and family.

- **Board room**—there is also an opportunity to name the board room on the mezzanine level of the building. This will be a good and very useful room and will be set up to accommodate up to 24 people around a nice sized meeting room table.

If any of you have interest (or know of any one who might) in such a permanent legacy please let us know. Contact Don Evans at 604-988-3435 or president@wcra.org or the office at 604-681-4403.

**FUNDRAISING**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

December was a much better month than several recent months have been, thanks both to activities carried out as well as progress on several fundraising fronts. Note that December starts our 2011 fiscal year. We thank all those who supported us in 2010.

Notable were the final of three installments from CN for the Roundhouse Naming Sponsorship (which retired a piece of RBC financing), a donation of shares from member Jack (and Bev) Wallace in Victoria, and the sponsorship funding from Louis Vuitton.

**Funding Asks Made**
- Several asks re Roundhouse
- Applied for financing from Howe Sound Community Futures (subsequently approved)

**Major Funding Received**
- Roundhouse Debentures $40,000
- General Debentures $5,000
- Roundhouse Donations $32,000
- Direct Mail Donations (TBD)
- Louis Vuitton Sponsorship $56,000
- CN Roundhouse Donation $416,000 (retired RBC loan)
- Donation of securities $6,500
- General Donations $2,000
Month Total $557,500  Year to Date Total $557,500
• General purposes $69,500
• Roundhouse $488,000

Other Significant Activities:
• 2011 budget development / funding needs
• Much work re Louis Vuitton / 2860 event
• Prepared and filed final report to Cultural Spaces Canada
• Prepared and filed Gaming Account Summary Report for FY 2010

WEST COAST RAIL TOURS

TOURS FOR 2011 ANNOUNCED

The Tours Committee continues to meet one week prior to the monthly general meetings and is now working the program for 2010—2011. To keep informed of upcoming tours and special excursions submit your e-mail address at www.westcoastrailtours.com. That way you will get up-to-the-minute news on special deals and new trips. Meantime, don’t forget WCR Tours as can book your independent travel at any time—we meet the best prices and your bookings result in commissions to the WCRA (see page 26). Here are our planned organized tours for 2011. (M.C.)

2011 GUIDED EXCURSIONS

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY IN SEATTLE 3 or 4 Days
Friday, May 6
4-Day Tour $589 (Adt) $559 (Snr) – NO HST
3-Day Tour $439 (Adt) $419 (Snr) – NO HST
This is a great opportunity to visit the Emerald City and for rail fans to see some steam and diesel trains in action along with other railway displays. You will depart Vancouver by Amtrak in the afternoon and transfer to a hotel in Seattle for two nights. Two-day admission to Train Days exhibits is included. You may also visit street fairs, the tug boat race or take a tour of the city. On the third day you return in the afternoon by train to Vancouver or by ferry to Victoria. Victoria travelers will enjoy the city on their own before returning to Vancouver at their leisure.

TOTEMS OF HAIDA GWAI 7 or 10 Days
Tuesday, May 24 OR Friday, May 27
10-Day Tour $1,999 (Adt) $1,949 (Snr)
7-Day Tour $1,399 (Adt) $1,349 (Snr)
Take a journey to Haida Gwaii (formerly Queen Charlotte Islands) and experience First Nations culture. Start by sleeping comfortably in your private cabin on VIA Rail’s “Canadian” en route to Jasper in the heart of the Rockies. Spend a free day here. An optional day tour is available. Then VIA Rail’s “Skeena” takes you across central British Columbia to Prince Rupert for a free day. A BC Ferry then sails overnight to Haida Gwaii. Once on these remote islands you will experience museum visits, native dances, feasts and many other sights. Return trip is by air direct to Vancouver. (Travelers on the 7-day option will join the group in Prince George arriving there by air.)

OKANAGAN WINE, TRAIN & CASINO 4 Days

Thursday, June 16
4-Day Tour $819 (Adult) $789 (Senior)
Take a ride on a steam train, experience wine tasting and stay at a casino, all in the Okanagan region. Depart Vancouver by motorcoach, making stops at Agassiz museum, Hell’s Gate Airtram and Spence’s Bridge before an overnight in Logan Lake. Going south, a stop will be made at the Quilchena Ranch before arriving in Penticton for 2 nights. Next day’s highlight is a ride on the Kettle Valley Steam train followed by a wine tasting experience. Your evening is free. On your way back to Vancouver, stops are made at the Osoyoos Desert Model Railway and another winery for lunch.

PLANES, TRAINS & GLASSTOP COACHES 2 Days

Thursday, June 23
2-Day Tour $369 (Classic) $469 (Dome)
Highlights: Squamish Lil’wat Cultural Centre, West Coast Railway Heritage Park, Rocky Mountaineer’s Whistler Sea to Sky Climb, Peak 2 Peak Gondola, Howe Sound Flightseeing. Pick-ups in the lower mainland will take you to the Rocky Mountaineer train in North Vancouver for the Whistler Sea to Sky Climb. This journey will take you on a unique train ride with gorgeous scenery. In Whistler a lunch is included in the village. After lunch we will go for a ride on the Peak 2 Peak Gondola. A short walk will then take us to the Skwxú7mesh Liíwat7úl (Squamish Lil’wat) Cultural Centre where we will experience a guided tour. Next day, after breakfast (included) a vintage glasstop bus will transfer you to Squamish where you will experience an exhilarating flightseeing tour of the Howe Sound area. A visit to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park and lunch is next on the agenda. The coach will then take you back to Vancouver.

CARIBOO TO DISCOVERY COAST 7 Days

Wednesday, June 29
7-Day Tour $1,370 (Adt) $1,300 (Snr)
Explore Whistler, Chilcotin, Barkerville, Bella Coola & the Discovery Coast. Start by traveling the scenic Sea-to-Sky highway and the Duffey Lake Road to Lillooet. You visit Hat Creek Ranch before going to Quesnel and on to Barkerville. Return to Williams Lake
and experience its famous Stampede. Next day your motorcoach will traverse the wild Chilcotin Plateau and with a little luck you may see grizzly bears. Get familiar with the First Nations and Norwegian cultures in the Bella Coola area. BC Ferries’ Discovery Coast passage service will take you to Port Hardy for the night. On the final day a stop at Telegraph Cove will be made before returning.

**OKANAGAN GOLF & WINE TASTING**  
**Wednesday, July 6**  
5-Day Tour  $1,249 (Adult & Senior)  
Golf enthusiasts are offered a great opportunity to play on some of the finest courses in the Okanagan. A comfortable motorcoach takes you through the Fraser Valley before arriving in Salmon Arm for wine tasting and hotel for the night. We will play the Salmon Arm Golf & CC and then move on to Vernon and Predator Ridge. If time allows we will visit a winery along the way. The last stop is Kelowna where we will play Gallagher Canyon and have some free time to explore this “small city that offers the world”. Another stop is made at a winery before returning to Vancouver.

**RAILS & MINES OF HOWE SOUND**  
**Monday, July 11**  
2-Day Tour  $299 (Adult)  $289 (Senior)  
**Highlights:** Britannia Mine Museum, Howe Sound Flightseeing, West Coast Railway Heritage Park, Tour departs from Victoria & Vancouver.  
The day starts in Victoria with pick ups in designated locations before crossing Georgia Strait by ferry. After pick up in downtown Vancouver we cross the Lion’s Gate Bridge to the North Shore for lunch. At beautiful and quaint Britannia Beach we will stop and visit the mining museum. The evening includes a dinner in Squamish and overnight in a comfortable hotel. After breakfast next morning (included) you will be transferred to Squamish airport where you will experience an exhilarating flightseeing tour of the Howe Sound area, including the majestic Stawamus Chief. A visit to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park with a mini rail ride and lunch is next on the agenda. The coach will end this trip by taking you back to Vancouver for drop offs and then on to Victoria for those who started there.

**RAILS OF NORTHERN OREGON**  
**Thursday, July 14**  
4-Day Tour  $849 (Adult)  $819 (Senior) – NO HST  
Portland, Oregon, The City of Roses as it is also known, provides an ideal destination for this brand new tour. Board Amtrak’s Cascades morning train from Vancouver direct to Portland and transfer to your hotel upon arrival. The second day includes visits to the Old Town, Chinatown, Washington Park and Pittock Mansion. Enjoy a scenic full-day tour including Timberline Lodge, Columbia Gorge, Hood River, Bonneville Dam, and Multnomah Falls followed by a Mystery Murder Dinner on Mt. Hood Railway’s vintage
train. Your last morning is free for some shopping or relaxing before returning to Vancouver on Amtrak’s Cascade service.

**WHITE PASS & YUKON STEAM SPECTACULAR**  
*Thursday, July 21*

5-Day Tour  **$1,599** (Adult)  **$1,549** (Senior)  
Note: FLIGHTS are INCLUDED in the PRICE

Steam & Vintage Diesel trains in one trip; what more can you ask for? Fly to Whitehorse and go on a tour of the area before check-in at your hotel. Next day an early morning coach takes you to Skagway for a noon departure of the Fraser Meadows Steam train, which goes beyond the White Pass Summit to Fraser, BC. You have a free day in Skagway to enjoy the trolley or an optional day tour. Next, the Yukon Adventure awaits you, a train ride to Carcross with a stop for lunch in Bennett. A motorcoach transfers you back to Whitehorse. On your last day a few tours/trips to museums, etc. may be included, then return to Vancouver by air.

**VANCOUVER ISLAND MALAHAT CIRCLE**  
*Tuesday, August 16* (also available unguided Daily, except Saturday)

2-Day Tour  **$249** (Adult)  **$219** (Senior)  
**Highlights:** Charming Qualicum Beach, E & N Railway’s Malahat Dayliner, Victoria.  
Depart from Vancouver aboard Pacific Coach Lines’ scheduled services to Victoria. The next morning we enjoy breakfast in the hotel restaurant. At 7:30 AM we transfer you to the VIA Rail station to board the “Malahat Dayliner” for an 8:00 AM departure to Qualicum Beach. Enjoy this quaint town with its interesting beaches and restaurants. After lunch (on your own) board the train at 2:15 PM and get off at Nanaimo at 3:10 PM. A waiting taxi takes you to Nanaimo’s bus depot for the 4:30 PM departure of Greyhound’s scheduled service to Vancouver. Arrive in Vancouver at 7:30 PM.

**VANCOUVER ISLAND’S WEST COAST**  
*Wednesday, August 24*

5-Day Tour  **$949** (Adult)  **$899** (Senior)  
Steam train, Budd car and ferries are all included in this trip. Travel to Victoria for a welcome dinner and overnight. Next morning ride VIA Rail’s Malahat Dayliner north to Qualicum Beach where you transfer to a motorcoach taking us to Port Alberni. Next day we sail on the coastal supply vessel “Frances Barkley” to Ucluelet for the night. We then tour the Tofino area and the Pacific Rim National Park before going east to Port Alberni. Next morning the steam train will pick you up right at your hotel and take you to the steam-operated McLean Mill before a return to Nanaimo and home.

**LAKE WHATCOM & AGASSIZ RAILWAYS**  
*Tuesday, August 30*

Day Tour  **$159** (Adult)  **$149** (Senior)
Highlights: 10-12 Hour Day Tour, Agassiz Railway Museum, Lake Whatcom Railway.
A motorcoach will pick you up at designated locations throughout the lower mainland and then take you to the Agassiz Station Museum for a visit and some snacks. Continuing you will go back to Abbotsford and cross the US Border in Sumas. Lunch is included before arriving in Wickersham, WA where you will board the train for the 1.5 hour journey. The passenger coaches are from early 20th century. Upon returning there will be time to visit the museum, which includes wooden freight cars from the Great Northern Railway. There is also a 100 year old handcar available for rides. Before returning to Vancouver, a stop will be made for dinner.

PORTLAND ON AMTRAK CASCADES—any time year round
Are you in the mood for some US shopping (or just a delightful visit to the great city of Portland)? Why not take advantage of the strong Canadian Dollar? Travel to one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world by rail, the most comfortable method of transportation. Departures from Vancouver every day at 6:40 am, arriving in Portland at 2:55 pm. The return train departs Portland at 2:50 pm, returning to Vancouver at 10:50 pm. Round trip rail tickets are as low as $110 (Seniors $93.50). We will also book your hotel in the downtown area starting at around $100/night. You decide how many nights you want to stay.

All Aboard with West Coast Rail Tours—call us at 604-524-1011 or toll free at 1-800-722-1233, or check us out at tours@wcra.org

WEST COAST RAILWAY HERITAGE PARK
Home of the Royal Hudson

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE PARK SETS NEW RECORD

Christmas Lights in the Park made its annual appearance for six evenings in December, and thrilled 556 guests—setting a new record for the event (last year was 206). As always, the West Coast Railway Heritage Park was magical in its Christmas décor, and this year things were enhanced by a bit of snow—enough to make it really pretty, but not so much that operations would be impacted (see back cover photo). In addition to the train ride, Mr. And Mrs. Claus were popular with guests in the Brightbill Heritage House, the gift shop in the Mac Norris Station did a brisk business, and the beanery was kept busy with hot chocolate and other warm drinks. The sales of glow sticks (new this year) was very popular.

The Christmas Lights in the Park event required hours of staff and volunteer labour to place the thousands of lights along the min-rail and the park… The Garden Railway lighting was also a major hit with the guests…nice job guys! Congratulations to Dave Thomson and the guest services staff and thanks to all of the volunteers that made the effort to light up the Park for our over 550 guests a wonderful experience. (R.G.)

WCRA News
VOLUNTEER AWARD PRESENTED

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Howie Tichauer at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park by GM Dave Thomson (photo by Russ Grycan)

ROUND TABLES FOR ROUNDBOUSE SPONSORED

Thank you to Howie Biehl (three tables) and Barry & Gail Hincklenton (one table) who stepped forward to help us increase the number of round dining tables available for functions in the new CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre. Our immediate goal is to be able to purchase and additional six tables, which will add to our in house capacity to serve guests who want to book functions there. A donation of $200 allows us to acquire one table, and an inscribed plaque on the table will recognize your donation. (D.T.)

DECEMBER A STRONG MONTH AT HERITAGE PARK

The month of December 2010 has set a new all time record for guest visits in a December at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park. Thanks to Polar Express, Christmas Lights and some other functions, we saw 3,889 guest visits this past month, ending the year at 32,000. We can see the impact of the Roundhouse already, and if you look at the year breakdown, we had 18,000 guests Jan—June (includes 11,000 for Thomas) and then 14,000 guests July—Dec.

Now that the roundhouse is fully open and will operate the full year in 2011, we are setting our sights on a goal of 50,000 guests in calendar 2011 at the Park.
FARMER’S MARKET CHOOSES HERITAGE PARK

The Squamish Winter Farmer's Market has chosen to move to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, and will set up one Saturday per month in the new CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre facility. Dates are February 12, March 12, and April 9, and hours each day are 1000k to 1500k. Of note is that during market operating hours, admission to the roundhouse facility (including its exhibits) will be free for everyone. Admission fees will apply to see the other Heritage Park exhibits, and the mini rail will operate at the regular fares. Member privileges apply as usual. (D.T.)

POLAR EXPRESS WRAP UP

The Polar Express event for 2010 also set a new record for the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, as we handled a total of 2,784 guests on the two days of the event (compared to 2,215 in 2009). We hope to expand the event to two weekends for 2011 so we can handle more guests at this popular event.

Of course, it wouldn’t be the event that it is without the annual visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus, pictured here in their comfortable new surroundings in the “North Pole” at the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event the success that it was.

(Craig McDowall photo)
LOCOMOTIVE 374 PAVILION

The number of visitors in 2010 to the Locomotive 374 Pavilion topped 22,700 due in part to the traffic generated by the Canada Line‘s Yaletown-Roundhouse station nearby. Also assisting the attendance numbers was the almost complete custodian coverage by our dedicated volunteers. This results in our being up about 11% over 2009. Of special note was the use of the Pavilion and Roundhouse Community Centre for most of February by the Italian government for the Winter Olympics. It has been conservatively estimated that an additional 25,000 visitors used the pavilion during that time. So, when you add in the Olympics, we saw almost 50,000 visitors at the Pavilion in 2010!

Volunteers are still needed to fill the occasional hole in the custodian schedule and also for backup when there may be an unexpected need for help. Please call Bill at 604-522-9068 or e-mail him at wmjohnston@shaw.ca if interested. Free underground parking and coffee vouchers are provided along with our appreciation.

It is not too early to mark the date Sunday May 22nd in your calendar. That is the day the locomotive is positioned onto the turntable plaza, the steam generator is activated and we have a party to celebrate the 124th anniversary of the locomotive’s arrival pulling the first passenger train into Vancouver. (B.J.)

FEATURE ARTICLES

WCRA News from 28 Years Ago - January 1967

*MCM note: This was the first monthly WCRA newsletter sent out to members. Prior to this issue, the occasional newsletter to keep members updated was mailed out with Extra 2200 South but the latter publication would not continue being produced from a Vancouver location, if at all. So the association needed to commence with monthly newsletters, and thus began a tradition that continues to this day…..

WCRA's January meeting notes:
The monthly meeting was held on Saturday night, Jan. 21st at 8PM (I guess none of us had dates or any social life in those days?). The meeting was held at 940 Station Street in "the building immediately north of the Great Northern Freight Office near the CNR depot".

This was a Nomination Night and this newsletter emphasized to all members "the importance of attending this meeting for we need a strong leadership to survive and we can only have this if good hard working people are nominated and elected. (MCM note: Geesh, a few years later, I was President for a couple of terms . . they must have dropped the 'good hard working' qualification!).
Also to be discussed at the meeting is to finally change the meeting night to a week night as members were dating, getting married or had families.

Locomotive #16 is finally in Alaska! Our locomotive was loaded onto the Alaska Trainship ferry 'Alaska' on Dec. 8th, 1966 after several false starts. It is now undergoing preparations in Anchorage, as The 16 is going to be part of Alaska's Official Centennial Celebrations and our engine will power a train that will run over a 7 mile line over the summer months with passenger equipment being converted WWII troop sleepers. This part of the Centennial Celebration is a joint effort of the Kiwanis Centennial Steam Railroad Committee, the Anchorage Centennial Commission, the Alaska Railroad and the New York Life Insurance Co.

IPSCO (The Interprovincial Steel and Pipe Corp.) of Regina has kindly provided our club with copies of a booklet pertaining to the history of IPSCO's display of ex CPR 4-8-4 #3101. Each WCRA member receives a copy of this booklet with this month's newsletter. Our thanks and appreciation to IPSCO for the booklet and also for preserving this locomotive. It is very rare that a company will preserve a locomotive. IPSCO is also considering the display of ex CPR 0-6-0 #6166 which is presently out of service at the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Coal Co. operation at Bienfait, Sask.

Local News
Canada's Confederation Train slipped into Vancouver's CPR station at 22:00 on January 4th. Except for the official Welcoming Committee, the press and some rail fans, the train arrived without fanfare. All exhibit coaches were sealed and the train was guarded by seven RCMP officers and several of CPR's 'finest'. The two units (CPR #1411 and CN 6509) plus the steam generator car were cut off and run over to CPR's False Creek facilities for fueling and sanding. Early the next morning, the entire train was loaded onto CPR's 'Princess of Vancouver' and sailed to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island at 16:00 hours. From Nanaimo, it departed to Victoria on the E and N line. This marked the first time that F units had ever run on Vancouver Island! It officially opened in Victoria by Secretary of State Judy LaMarsh, but reaction to the train was mixed with some of the press discussing it's value for the money spent. The train will be back in Vancouver from January 21st to 26th at the CPR station and then from January 27th to Feb. 1st at the CNR station.

PGE (BCR)
Feb. 25th is the day this year for the fifth annual WCRA RDC excursion with the trip this year going from North Vancouver to Kelly Lake and return (a total of nearly 400 miles).

PGE has taken delivery of three new MLW RS18's. They are numbered 628-630 and bring PGE's roster to 57 locomotives. The three new units come complete with 'snow plow' pilots. There were some recent rumours that industrialist Cyrus Eaton was considering the possibility of purchasing the PGE. No comment from either Mr. Eaton or the PGE.
CPR
Due to the usual increase at Christmas time, CPR provided extra passenger service across the country. CP ran five extras called "Holiday Specials" out of Vancouver. The consists were complete with Park cars, 'A' type dining cars, sleepers and 2200 series coaches. Almost a 'Dominion' consist!

CPR has announced that they will operate a second daily transcontinental train from April 30 to October 28th. The "Expo Limited" will be utilized to handle the expected increase in passenger loads going to 'Expo 67'. The train will depart Vancouver nightly at 22:00 hours.

CPR N2b #3716 has waited almost 7 months for a decision to be reached on where it will be displayed in Port Coquitlam. The City Council has two locations in mind, one of which is in front of City Hall. Port Coquitlam obtained the locomotive from CPR in a "Land for Locomotive" deal.

After years of waiting for new power on the West Coast, SD 40's will be making their debut on the CPR. The GMD 3000 hp units are now assigned to the Pacific Region and will operate as far west as Coquitlam. They are numbered in the 5500 series and 30 of the original order of 65 ordered have been delivered.

CNR
CNR also added to their passenger service over the Christmas period by adding a third transcontinental train from mid December to early January. It ran as a 'second section' to the Super Continentals.

CNR is dramatically increasing their passenger service during 'Expo 67'. They are supposed to be running four Transcon's plus a total of 52 'Specials'. Details are expected to be made public in February.

NP
As of January 6th, Northern Pacific's crack passenger train 'The North Coast Limited' will not be operating with the standard round end observation car. Is this a signal that this could be the end of one of the truly classic 'name trains' left?

For Sale:
The WCRA has decided to sell or trade in its' 1949 Austin 'portable generating station' (also known as a P-1/2) as being surplus to our present traffic requirements. This auto had been used to supply power (vi a most ingenious method devised by our valued member Bill "Mr. Edison" Whitehead to the car British Columbia. However our little Austin has been badly vandalized recently and found to be excessively expensive to maintain. This little gem normally gets 35 miles to the gallon but in her present state, figure 0 miles to the gallon. We will put it up for bids or possible trade for a good used locomotive!
RAILWAY NEWS

MOTIVE POWER NOTES

CN SD70M #8888 has turned up in what appeared to be yard switcher use at BNSF New Westminster! The unit had been part of the motive power consist on a train to Chicago December 4, and then worked its way west on BNSF arriving New Westminster December 14th. (J.M.)……..CN crews are finding the small cab size on the 35 used GE Dash8-40C (2100—2134) units acquired from Union Pacific quite tight. The units, along with another group bought from BNSF (which do have large cabs), were acquired to replace older SD40-2 units which are not easily upgraded to Tier 2 emission standards. CN, of course, pioneered the development of the “Safety Cab” which led to the adoption of the larger cab size as pretty much standard on new diesel locomotives for the past 30 years.

It has been confirmed that 15 locomotives are to receive the 15-Years logo and that CN intends to complete the CN repaints on all the ex-UP C40-8's by year end. It is interesting to note that CN SD70-I 5616 is actually depicted on the “15- years The Journey Continues, 1995-2010" / “L’aventure se poursuit” logo, and would be a prime candidate to wear this livery as this was the first locomotive acquired by CN as a private company. Eight C40-8s still in UP paint have not yet cycled through Centralia paint shop. The units in CN livery, as of November 21, are CN 2101, 2103, 2105, 2106, 2107*, 2111, 2112*, 2113*, 2114, 2115*, 2116, 2117, 2118*, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123,2124*, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128*, 2129, 2131, 2132 and 2134. Asterisks denote those wearing the 15-year artwork. (TJ)

AGAWA CANYON TRAIN TO GET PAINTED

The Algoma Central Agawa Canyon Tour Train is headed for a repaint. The orange and silver train set (former Denver based Ski Train) has been reported at Centreville, Iowa heading to Madison, Ill. from the Soo for "refurbishing and repainting" during the winter before heading back. New scheme is not known at this time. (TJ)

STRONG RESULTS

CN’s 3Q 2010 financial results were strong, with revenue growth in all seven of its business sectors. Operating ratio was industry best at 63.6 year to date. (BL)

MOTIVE POWER NOTES

Two CPR units made their last run west recently, CP 1583 was one of the company’s first GP7 units (8409) and CP 5720 was a SD40-2. The units trailed 8832 / 9759 on westbound train 401 due Coquitlam December 12th, and are destined for SRY New Westminster for new owner
J & L Consulting (likely to be scrapped)......Another batch of surplus units came west a few days later, including SD40-2’s 5714, 5808, and 5778. (K.P.)……..AC44CW #9815 was motive power for this year’s Canadian Holiday Train, which crossed the country December 2010. (TJ)

**WIND TOWER FLAT CARS**

CP and Vectora Transportation displayed two special 89 foot flat cars loaded with wind tower equipment at the Wind Energy Association 2010 conference in Montreal, PQ. The cars have entered dedicated service in CPR’s fleet; feature special cradles to handle the equipment. (BL)

**OTHER NEWS**

**RMRS 6060 HAS GOOD YEAR**

Steam locomotive CN 6060, owned and operated by the Rocky Mountain Rail Society, has had a very busy summer working a total of 22 steam runs out of Stettler, Alberta. The higher than usual number of operations was because the Alberta Prairie’s regular 2-8-0 steam locomotive, #41, was out of service for some rebuild work. It returned to service in September 2010.

RMRS is working to try and make the operations out of Stettler more suitable for the large 4-8-2, and are trying to see the line between Stettler and Big Valley upgraded to 100 lb. steel, a wye installed at Big Valley so the loco can be turned (it currently runs in reverse in one direction) and to have a roundhouse and turntable installed at Stettler where the locomotive can be stored and serviced. (SRN)

**WEST COAST EXPRESS’S NEW CAR DELIVERIES COMPLETE**

The addition of nine new cars to the West Coast Express fleet is now complete, with the delivery of new cab control car #109. The other eight are coaches 401-408, and the new fleet additions can be easily distinguished by the fact that they use Translink dark blue paint instead of the former WCE purple. The additional cars have allowed trains to be lengthened for additional capacity, as well as allowing for the release of earlier cars for upgrades and refurbishment.

**E & N 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BEING PLANNED FOR SUMMER**

The Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway on Vancouver Island will celebrate it’s 125th anniversary in July of 2011. The Island Corridor Foundation, now owners of the historic line, are working to develop a celebration plan that will cover much of the Island (where tracks run) and plans to celebrate the occasion in grand style. Watch for further details as the plan unfolds.
Would you like to support the WCRA without affecting your own personal budget? Are you planning to take a trip somewhere in the near future?

Make your travel arrangements with our Tours Department and the proceeds go back to support the Association

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BACK COVER

Mini Rail SRY 124 performs in the beautiful snowy scene during Christmas Lights in the Park at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park. (Russ Grycan photo)

WCXX 008 Alberta gleams in the CN Roundhouse & Conference Centre on Tuesday, January 11, 2011—the day when it was unveiled as our latest restoration and first class operating car. (Don Evans photo)

TRIVIA ANSWER

California’s Perris Transit Center which will serve Metrolink and is also the terminus for the Orange Empire Railway Museum’s excursion trains. The OERM is home to the “Grizzly Flat’s Railroad” which is the late Ward Kimball’s full size three foot gauge backyard railroad from his three acre California property.